from October to December. The millets are sown in April-May and reaped about six months later. Maize is usually sown in April-May and ripens in August-September. Dry paddy, generally three crops are raised in the district : the first is sown in December-January and harvested in April-May, the second is sown in February-March and is gathered in June-July and the third is sown in July-August and is harvested in November-December.

Fairs and festivals. The markets are shifted at weekly intervals. Harvesting of crops takes place from October to January. Sowing takes place at the beginning of the year and are collected between February and May.

2.6.3 Agricultural implements.—The usual agricultural implements are a hoe, a sickle, three or four kinds of axes, a knife, a crowbar which is used for the construction of irrigation channels, 'dabras' and skimming ladders. Bullock drawn plough is used in wet paddy cultivation in parts of Jowai subdivision and in Shillong area and ramdahs are also in use in the plains of the State.

2. 6. 4. General cultural practices.—The cultivators mostly adhere to their indigenous practices of cultivation. Rotation of crops is not widely used. Cultivation of rice is usually done by broadcasting the seeds though transplanting is also in vogue in some areas. Mixed cropping is widely practised. Cultivation by making terraces in the hill slopes is growing popularity in the district.

2.7 Cottage Industries.—Cottage Industries, it appears, have not found very great favour among the people of the district. A few families here and there manufacture iron implements, earthenware, mats, baskets, cane and bamboo. In weaving connect with other domestic crafts of cotton clothes is now among the Khasis. The Khasi in Shillong area and in areas adjoining North Cachar and Mikir Hills produce it only for their domestic consumption. At present, the Government is trying to popularise weaving in the district and the efforts have welcomed by the Khasis. Among other cottage industries production of tea carried in the northern part of the district adjoining Cachar district and tea hanging throughout the district are worth mentioning.

2.8 The People.—The Khasis and Jaintias are a distinct people from the neighbouring hill tribes. By nature they are hardy and laborious and in regard of manual labour they are far from any inhabitant. Side by side with the Khasis live the Mikirs, Garos and Nepalis who form respectively 1.32 percent, 1.38 percent and 2.87 per cent of the total rural population. Besides, there are plains people who are mainly concentrated in the town of Shillong. In the neighbouring regions of the border area there are a large number of Bengali Hindus who dominate the bulk of the trade in the border areas.

2.9 Occupation.—The greater portion of the population of the district subsists on cultivation. More than 75 percent of the rural households are predominantly agricultural. The industrious Khasi agriculturists males and females have a high regard for hard labour